

SOMERDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
301 Grace Street
Somerdale, NJ 08083

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

MINUTES

January 21, 2009
7:30 p.m.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 p.m.

Sunshine Law:

The Somerdale Board of Education Meeting is called to order. The Board of Education is in compliance with the sunshine regulations. This meeting was appropriately advertised by notifying The Record Breeze and The Courier Post, as well as posting notices in Borough Hall, the Somerdale Post Office and the Somerdale Park School.

II. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

James Abbott - present	Linda Giambri - present
Leslie Caramiello - present	Martha Gray - absent
Richard Caswell – arrived at 7:40 p.m.	Susan Lowden - present
Cheryl Cronce - present	David Reeder - present
James Walsh - present	

Also Present:

Dr. Debra L. Bruner, Superintendent
Dawn Leary, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Kristine Height, Principal
Richard Roswell, Shared Services Building & Grounds Supervisor
John Kennedy, Solicitor
Frant Radey – Architect of Record

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV.

On a motion by Mr. Walsh seconded by Mrs. Caramiello the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the December 17, 2008 regular Board of Education Meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 2 (Mr. Caswell arrived after the vote)

V. STUDENT OF THE MONTH PRESENTATIONS

(Presented by Mrs. Kristine Height, Principal, Somerdale Park School)

- VI. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION *of boiler room/cafetorium roof repairs and roof replacement (B Wing, Summer, 2009) by Frank Radey, Architect-of-Record.*
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS on any action items.

NOTATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Board President will recognize those individuals in the audience whom wish to comment on any action items on this Agenda. Please respect the following procedures:

1. Be recognized by the Board President.
2. State your full name and address.
3. Identify the resolution/item number on which you wish to comment.
4. Wait to be recognized before you make your comment
(Just before the resolution is voted on).
5. Limit your comments to the specific resolution/items.
6. Limit your comments to (3) minutes per person.

VII. REPORTS

A. Superintendent gave a report at 7:42 p.m.

Dr. Bruner informed the public of the meeting the Board had with the mayor and Borough Council.

Dr. Bruner informed the Board and the public that Frank Radey the school architect will be attending the meeting to provide information on the roofing and sewer projects that need immediate attention.

Dr. Bruner discussed the Gifted and Talented program and stated the second half of the year will be a pilot program for enrichment programs for all eighth grade students.

Upon arrival of Mr. Radey, Dr. Bruner asked him to provide information on the roofing and solar projects.

Mr. Radey discussed roofing issues concerning the boiler room. He informed the Board and the public the repairs could be done while school is in session and there would be no interruptions. He also stated he would apply for a ROD grant from the state to help with the projects which could provide partial funding. Mr. Radey also stated he would see if the current contractor would include the cafeteria repair in the current proposal.

Dr. Bruner mentioned the Municipal Alliance would be sponsoring the after school bridge program for grades 5-8. She stated there is a need to train six staff members.

Dr. Bruner reminded everyone of movie night on Friday and the Blood Drive on Monday. She also provided information concerning the Chinese Auction, which is being held on February 12, 2009.

Dr. Bruner stated the second marking period ends on Friday.

Dr. Bruner discussed the Pre-School program. She mentioned the governor is pulling back and re-evaluating all programs. She said it may be postponed until funding is available.

Dr. Bruner informed the Board and the public of the upcoming meeting with Rowan University regarding the feasibility study.

B. Business Administrator gave a report at 8:10 p.m.

Ms. Leary informed the Board there was a correction to November's payroll. She stated the Bill's List numbers carried over to November's payroll and has since been corrected.

Ms. Leary stated she worked on the following:

Met with the Food Service Manager from Dowling to discuss equipment needs for the kitchen.

Worked on the Emergency Response Manual with Mrs. Denafó.

Met with K. Peters and her mentor over the Christmas break to review the current budget report.

Trained the accounting clerk/payroll specialist on the Secretary's Report.

Held her first weekly B & G meeting with Mr. Roswell and Mr. Prendergast to discuss projects.

Contacted Mr. Radey concerning the roof repair over the boiler room.

Attended her monthly Round Table meeting.

Attended a workshop at the Gloucester County Dept of Ed. regarding Food Service contracts.

Ms. Leary asked the Board to accept the Non-public Chapter 192-193 refund due back to the state for the 2007-2008 school year.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Personnel Committee**, M. Gray, Chairperson

On a motion by Mrs. Cronce seconded by Mrs. Caramiello the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following:

1. Mrs. Beth Levine, Temple University student, to conduct a **speech clinical internship** with Kimberly Plotts, Speech Therapist, for the Spring, 2009 Semester.
2. Lis Brennan, Rowan University student, to conduct a one day **classroom observation** (*2009 Spring Semester*) in a second grade classroom, in conjunction with her BS Nursing certification program.
3. Jessie Daywalt substitute teacher, effective 1/22/2009 until the remainder of the school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

B. **Finance Committee**, C. Cronce, Chairperson

On a motion by Mrs. Cronce seconded by Mr Walsh the following was approved:

Recommend that the Board of Education on the recommendation of the business administrator approve the following:

Financial Report

Recommend that the Board of Education certify that as of this date and after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the

appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major fund balance has been overspent in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13 (b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations as of this date.

January Bill List #1 \$ 435.20
 January Bill List #2 \$ 183,819.65
 January Bill List #3 \$ 16,871.23
 January Bill List #4 \$ 7,517.41
 December Payroll #1 \$ 104,758.75
 December Payroll #2 \$ 127,249.99
 Transfers/Adjustments as attached.
 Board Secretary's Report(s) for November 2008
 Treasurer's Report(s) for November 2008

1. The following staff members to attend **conferences**:
 - a.) Six (6) staff members (TBD) to attend a **Bridge Leadership Training Workshop** on 1/23/'09 to be held at the Somerdale Park School, in conjunction with the Bridge Leadership program. Substitute coverage will be the only cost to the district.
 - b.) Kristine Height, Principal, to attend the NJDOE Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (**EVVRS**) **training** in Mt. Laurel, NJ on 2/25/'08. There is no cost to attend the training.
 - c.) Dawn Leary, Business Administrator, to attend the Electronic Web-Enabled Grant (**EWEG**) **payment system training** on 1/29/'09 at GCSD, located in Sewell, NJ. There is no cost to attend this training.
 - d.) Rory Eisenstein, Spanish Teacher, to attend Educational Resource Services, **"From Chaos to Classroom Control,"** workshop on 2/12/'09 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Registration Cost: \$199.00. Mileage reimbursement as per BOE travel policy.
 - e.) Dawn Leary, Business Administrator, to attend the Burlington & Camden County Educators' Insurance Consortium (**BACCEIC**) on 1/28/'09 in Cherry Hill, NJ. There is no cost to attend this meeting.
 - f.) Dawn Ramos, Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk, to attend Capehart/Scatchard's **"2009 Employee Medical & Family Leave"** Workshop Seminar on 2/25/'09 in Vineland, NJ. Registration Cost: \$95.00. Mileage reimbursement as per BOE travel policy.
2. As per approval of the **Interdistrict Golf Program** at the 9/17/'08 BOE Meeting, to approve an additional \$180.00 expenditure for same. The program was initially approved for \$1,000.00
3. To continue **placement** of a fifth grade specific learning disabilities transfer student at GCSD-Bankridge Elementary, effective 1/12/'09 for the remainder of the 2008-'09 school year. Tuition Cost: \$31,400.00 (*pro-rated*). Transportation provided by CCESC.
4. In conjunction with the Sterling HS Municipal Alliance, six (6) staff members to supervise the **Bridge Program** in an after-school program on Thursday afternoons for the remainder of the 2008-'09 school year. All costs will be paid by the Municipal Alliance.
5. Submission of **FY2008 Final Report** of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (**IDEIA**), as per state mandates regarding same.
6. The **Somerdale Park School 403(b) Retirement Plan** as developed by Gatekeeper Administration & Consulting, LLC., previously BOE approved as the consultant group to

develop and monitor same at the 4/21/08 BOE Meeting.

7. To approve the refund of state funds for Non-public Chapter 192-193, 2007-2008 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES _____ NO _____ ABSTAIN _____ ABSENT _____

C. **Curriculum Committee**, C. Cronic and L. Giambri, Co-Chairpersons

On a motion by Mrs. Giambri seconded by Mr. Walsh the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. **February calendar events** for February, 2009 (*subject to change, pending final calendar revisions*).
2. The **2009-'10 Professional Development Plan**, as developed by the Somerdale Professional Development Committee.
3. **Band and choral groups** to attend Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ on 6/3/09 as an end-of-year culminating trip; and **selected choral students** to attend Rowan University and Bridgeton Zoo for a concert presentation(s). Cost per pupil will be \$30.00 and \$10.00, respectively.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

D. **Buildings and Grounds Committee**, D. Reeder, Chairperson

On a motion by Mr. Reeder seconded by Ms. Lowden the following was approved

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. To secure bids and receive appraisals for a **B Wing roofing project**, to be completed in Summer, 2009, pending submission and final approval of the 2009-'10 Budget.
2. To accept the Jottan proposal for **roof repairs**, as attached, as recommended by Frank Radey, Architect-of-Record, in the amount of \$2,380.00.
3. **Somerdale Baseball & Softball Association** to use Ward Field on Monday through Friday 5:30 p.m. to Sunset, and Saturdays and Sundays, effective 3/1/09 – 7/1/09, pending the district game and practice schedules, for all Spring Sports Teams.
4. To approve the ROD grant for the roofing project and possibly solar project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 7 NO 0 ABSTAIN 1 (Mr. Reeder on #3 only) ABSENT 1

E. **Policy Committee**, J. Walsh, Chairperson

On a motion by Mr. Walsh seconded by Mrs. Lowden the following was approved:

A recommendation is requested to approve the following:

1. As per N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1 and N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.4, a recommendation is requested to approve a pre-school student being **exempt** from the **school immunization requirements** as per the family's religious beliefs.

2. As per the attached **disclaimer**, David Reeder, to voluntarily repair the seal leaks in the boiler room. As a volunteer, he agrees to hold the Somerdale Park School harmless for any injury or loss that he could suffer while performing the repair of the seal leaks.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

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| F. | Interdistrict Committee, | S. Lowden, Chairperson – no report |
| G. | CCESC Representative, | D. Reeder, Representative – no report |
| H. | NJSBA Representative, | S. Lowden – stated Ms. Leary was doing a great job keeping the board informed. |
| I. | CCSBA Representative, | C. Cronic – attended the regionalization/consolidation workshop presented by the NJSBA. Ms. Cronic stated feasibility studies are now being done and everyone has to be in agreement by March 2010. |
| J. | Liaison Committee, | M. Gray, Chairperson – no report |
| K. | Public Relations, | L. Giambri, Chairperson – no report |
| L. | Negotiations, | J. Walsh, Chairperson – no report |

IX. OTHER REPORTS:

Faculty Attendance	December, 2008
Student Attendance	December, 2008
Fire Drill Reports	December, 2008
Health Report	December, 2008

X. DISCUSSION ITEM: **Borough Housing Developments**

Dr. Bruner stated Borough Council has proposed 350 housing units to be built.

Mr. Abbott stated houses were not selling and the 55 and over housing development on Evesham Road was no longer available. He also said despite the number of housing units, the Township is still 92 units short. He asked where we were going to put the students. He stated he left the Borough meeting feeling discouraged.

Dr. Bruner stated she told the mayor to send her guidelines regarding the proposed development and the respective number of bedrooms for each anticipated year of occupancy. She would then work with the architect to determine the anticipated total number of students. She also informed the Board that putting up trailers and using the old gymnasium was not an option. She reminded the mayor and council that the all purpose room is being used as the cafeteria. She also told mayor and council if an additional 350 homes are built, the borough would have to build a new school.

Mr. Abbott stated there is also a bill up and running that we are required to have green space.

Mrs. Caramiello stated Somerdale has no where else to build.

Mrs. Lowden stated her concern is 350 units are all going to be regular market and affordable housing. She also said there will be at least one student in each household.

Mr. Caswell stated there was a survey done in the past regarding enrollment. The survey projected

601 students. Dr. Bruner stated we currently have 492 students

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on any item) were given at 8:50 p.m.

Audience Recognition and Public Comment

The public is reminded that all public complaints against a district employee must be made through a specific grievance process.

A description of this process may be found in BOE policy (File Code 1312). This policy is available upon request in the office of the Board Secretary.

Any individual naming an employee in a complaint before the Board of Education, without the employee's permission, could be cited for violating that employee's civil and contractual rights.

Steven Quinn of Browning Road in Somerdale stated students are being forced to participate in "Dress Down Days". Mr. Abbott stated the school does not have that many and that it is a positive function for the students.

Michael Coates of Warwick Road in Somerdale expressed his concern regarding sand and mud outside of the C-wing. Mr. Abbott stated that it is expensive. He also said there was no grass in the front before but there is now. Mr. Coates stated his granddaughter stepped in the sand and that maybe the school could have volunteers clean it up. He offered to lend a hand.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel and legal matters at 8:55 p.m.

Resolved that pursuant to Section 8 of the Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving the discussion of personnel, legal, and contractual matters. Further resolved that discussion of such subject matters discussed in Executive Session can be disclosed to public, upon official action, if any, is taken by the Board, either at the resumption of the public session, at the conclusion of the executive session, or at a public session at some later date.

XIII. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION at 9:40 p.m.

On a motion by Mrs. Cronce seconded by Mr. Reeder the following was approved:

To approve the maintenance technician to continue to receive the additional stipend on record for the remainder of the 08/09 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES 8 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0 ABSENT 1

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Cronce, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Leary

Dawn Leary
Board Secretary